THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 340. *Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1822.* *Price 1d.*

COVENT GARDEN.

LAST night *Venice Preserved* was acted here, when Mr. C. KEMBLE was the *Jaffier ;* Mr. MACREADY *Pierre ;* and Miss LACY *Belvidera.* We have to thank the management of this Theatre for the courage they have displayed in thus affording the Public a direct opportunity of judging of the comparative merits of the four principal tragedians of our Stage, in characters respectively similar ; and we have to congratulate them on the success of the effort made to establish the just fame of their own performers. We say, and in the spirit of perfect equality of feeling towards both this house and its potent rival, that we never were *more,* if so highly gratified, by the performance of the above Tragedy, as on this occasion.

Mr. C. KEMBLE represented the weak, fond, friend and husband, with an effect we have never seen him equal—at all times we have admired him in this part, but last night we perceived a heightened attention to every point of the character. Mr. KEAN's *Jaffier* is a fine performance, marked by many bursts of genius, but it has not the uniform stamp of *natural feeling* on it, which we see in Mr. C. KEMBLE's representation.

The highest merit of an actor—although we own it is not the most popular—is to banish every wish to be remembered as an *actor,* and study only to preserve the *illusion* of the scene.—We will say, that we know not a performer who more devotes himself to his *part* than Mr. C. KEMBLE—He may be thought occasionally defective in declamatory passages, by not carefully placing the *emphases,* but he ever acts from his *feelings,* and we, therefore, are sure to be absorbed in the *character* he represents.

Mr. MACREADY's *Pierre,* is a fine, manly piece of acting, in which respect it yields not to Mr. YOUNG's—but some of his *attitudes* are not so free as they should be—he too often takes up a position as it were by *design.* His performance in the scene with the conspirators when he braves and rebukes them, was most masterly—in the scene of the Senate-chamber, his scorn for Jaffier was admirably delivered in the speech, beginning,

> "Thou Jaffier ! thou my once-lov'd valued friend !
> "By heavens thou ly'st ;———"

And when *Jaffier* replies—

> "I have not wrong'd thee ; by these tears I have not.———"

—his manner of holding up his chains with a reproving look was highly effective, and obtained him great applause. The death was ably managed, and each were loudly cheered by the audience.

Miss LACY performed *Belvidera* in a very superior style—she obtained on numerous occasions the most marked approbation. She has those excellent qualifications—judgment and feeling.

DRURY-LANE

Venice Preserved was likewise acted here last night with all its former effect. Mr. ELLISTON, Mr. DOWTON, and Mrs. DAVISON were very entertaining in *Three Weeks after Marriage*; and the farce of *Lock and Key* very pleasantly performed.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. MUNDEN is so much indisposed as to be unable to appear to-night as *Caustic* in the Comedy—Mr. TERRY takes his part.

West London—This Evening the performances are devoted to the Benefit of Messrs. J. FITZWILLIAM and DURHAM, and present very great attractions. Our *second Edition* contains the *Bill of Fare*, which for interest, variety, and humor, is not surpassed by that at any other of our temples of amusement.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL PLAY.

THE annual performance of Plays at this celebrated seat of Education by the young gentlemen, has been attended this year with considerable *eclat* from the excellent style in which the Piece represented has been embodied in the principal characters. *The Eunuch of Terence* was acted last night for the third time, with great spirit and accuracy, and gave high satisfaction to the learned and fashionable auditors who attended it. Mr. EDEN as *Thraso*, and Mr. FAWCETT as *Gnatho* exhibited an uncommon share of judgment and humor in their several parts. Mr. MOORE represented the frail *Thais* with remarkable propriety and happy effect—Mr. BRAINE as *Phardia*; Mr. UNDERWOOD as *Parmeno*; Mr. SHAW as *Charea*; and Mr. HEATH as *Pythias*; did great justice to their respective characters, and received great approbation—the latter gentleman, indeed, did his part with more than usual excellence.—The Epilogue was marked by good *taste*.

The Morning Chronicle, the other day, made some observations on the "indecency" of this play, and the impropriety of "boys" acting it. We confess, that we think a better subject might have been chosen to impress on the memory of youth.

Printed by E. THOMAS, Denmark Court, Exeter 'Change, Strand.
Published by C. HARRIS, at his Theatrical Library, No. 25, Bow Street, and Sold by CHAPPEL and Son, Royal-Exchange.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden,

This Evening will be performed, (7th time) a new Opera, in three acts, called

Maid Marian;

Or, the Huntress of Arlingford.

The Music by Mr. Bishop.

Richard the 1st, King of England, Mr. T. P. COOKE,
Prince John, Mr. EGERTON,
Robert Fitzooth, Earl of Locksley, Mr. ABBOTT,
Baron Fitzwater, Mr. W. FARREN,
Sir Ralph Montfancon, Mr. BAKER,
Lord Lacy, Mr HORREBOW, Little John, Mr HUNT
Abbott of Rubygill, Mr. ATKINS,
Friar Michael, Mr. C. KEMBLE,
Friar Peter, Mr KEELEY, Will Whitethorn, Mr Ley
Sir William of the Lee, Mr. CHAPMAN,
Sir Guy of Gamwell, Mr. BARNES,
Much, the Miller, Mr. PYNE, Herald, Mr. RYALS,
William Gamwell, Mr PEARMAN,
Allan O'Dale, Mr. J. ISAACS, Page Master Longhurst
Officers, Mseers. MEARS and KING,
Attendant on Prince John, Mr. LOUIS,
Sheriff of Nottingham, Mr. NORRIS,
Foresters, &c.
Lady Matilda Fitzwater, Miss M. TREE,
Alice Gamwell, Miss BEAUMONT,
Village Lass, Miss DUNN.

The New Scenery, by *Grieve* and Son, expressly painted for this Piece.
Interior of Rubygill Abbey—Exterior of ditto—Hall in Arlingford Castle—Sherwood Forest by Moonlight—Gamwell Green—Prince John's Tent,—and the Burning of Arlingford Castle—Hall in Nottingham Castle—Tree in Sherwood Forest—Romantic View in the Vicinity—Robin Hood's Bower.

After which, O'Keefe's Petit-Comedy (in 2 acts) called

The London Hermit.

Old Pranks, Mr. BARTLEY, Young Pranks, Mr. JONES,
Tully, Mr. CONNOR, Natty Maggs, Mr. KEELEY,
Whimmey, Mr. FAWCETT, Toby Thatch, Mr. MEADOWS,
Barleycorn, Mr. EVANS, Apathy, Mr. HORREBOW,
Mr. Pry, Mr. LEY, John Grum, Mr. GEORGE,
John, Mr. KING, Waggoner, Mr. CRUMPTON,
Mrs. Maggs, Mrs. DAVENPORT, Kitty Barleycorn, Miss BEAUMONT
Miss Glib, Miss GREEN, Miss Gadabout, Miss HENRY.

To-morrow, Maid Marian, with the Irish Tutor, and the Two Pages of Frederick the Great.

XUM

New Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, will be performed, the Comedy of The

Way to Get Married.

Tangent, Mr. ELLISTON,
Captain Faulkner, *(1st time)* Mr. COOPER.
Toby Allspice, Mr. DOWTON,
Caustic, Mr. TERRY, Dick Dashall, Mr. PENLEY,
M'Query, Mr. GATTIE, Landlord, Mr. Meredith,
Shopman, Mr. Hughes, Ned, Mr. Turnour, Jailor, Mr Williams.
Gregory, Mr. Willmott, Officer. Mr. Coveney,
William, Mr. Povey, Solicitor, Mr. Douglas, Undertaker, Mr. Randall
Postillion, Mr. Seymour, Clerk, Mr. Kench.

Lady Sorrell, Mrs. HARLOWE, Fanny, Miss Phillips.
Julia Faulkner, *(1st time)* Mrs. H. HUGHES,
Clementina Allspice, Mrs. GLOVER,

To which will be added, a new Divertisement, called The

Halt of the Caravan.

Including the National Dances of
THE PAS RUSSE—THE SPANISH BOLERO,
A Hornpipe A L'Anglaise—and a Grand Asiatic Pas De Deux.
The Characters by Mr. and Mrs. OSCAR BYRNE,
Mr. and Mrs. NOBLE, and Miss TREE.
Travellers, &c. Messrs. Willmott, Hope, Gouiret, Mathews, Turnour.
Messdms. Smith, E. Smith, Valancy, Gibbon, E. Gibbon, &c.

To conclude with, the Farce, called

Old and Young.

Mr. Wilton, Mr. TERRY, Charles Mowbray, Mr. MERCER,
Peter, Mr. KNIGHT, William, Mr. HAYES,
Peggy, Mrs. O R G E R,
Matilda Mowbray, a Child, (assuming the Children's Characters of Master Hector Mowbray, Master Gobbleton Mowbray, Master Foppington Mowbray) Miss CLARA FISHER.

To-morrow, Othello, with Frighten'd to Death!